REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 15, 2004. Claims 1 to 32 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 24 and 28 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 18 and 22 to 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,490,052 (Yanagidaira) in view of U.S. Patent 6,515,756 (Mastie), and Claims 19 to 21 and 25 to 27 were rejected under § 103(a) further in view of U.S. Patent 6,253,238 (Lauder). The rejections are all respectfully traversed.

The invention concerns support for printer maintenance in a network environment having a server and at least one network device in a printer. The server contains a plurality of printer configuration files. An HTML-based page is sent to the network device, wherein the HTML-based page is generated in correspondence to a printer and contains the names of printer maintenance functions from the printer configuration file. Upon selection in the network device of one of the printer maintenance function names in the HTML-based page, the server sends the printer the printer maintenance commands which corresponds to the selected printer maintenance function name.

It is therefore one aspect of the invention that a printer maintenance function command is sent by the server to the printer.

Yanagidaira has been studied carefully, but is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing arrangement, and particularly is not seen to disclose or to suggest that it is a server that sends a printer maintenance function to a printer. The Office Action took

the position that lines 21 to 32 of Yanagidaira's column 7 discloses the sending by a server to a printer of a printer maintenance command. Lines 21 to 32 read as follows:

> "Similarly, when the main control unit 1 receives the URL indicating the request of the specification, operation setting or operation update of the printer from the client browser 12, it calls the corresponding setting control unit 2 with reference to the registry. The setting control unit 2 detects the request of the specification or update of the setting state of the printer which corresponds to the URL and performs recording of the requested setting for the printer information database 6. The setting control unit 2 obtains other setting states along with this. Then it generates a necessary HTML file group corresponding to the setting states."

The cited section of Yanagidaira is devoid of any reference to a sending, by Yanagidaira's server, of a printer maintenance command to a printer. Rather, this section of Yanagidaira very clearly describes a situation in which settings of a printer, as updated by a client in his web browser, are stored to printer information database 6. There is not a description that settings are thereafter sent to the printer.

In fact, Yanagidaira is believed to function in a completely different way. Referring to Yanagidaira's Figure 1 and the corresponding description commencing at column 5, language monitors 7 and 8 are respectively provided for printers A and B. The language monitors access printer information database 6 and retrieve the operational setting state for their respective printers, whereafter it is the language monitors that send the operational setting state to the printers. Thus, although it is true that the main control unit 1 updates the printer information database, the main control unit 1 does not also send information to the printers. Rather, that responsibility lies with the language monitors, which retrieve the information from the printer information database and send the information to the printers:

"The language monitor 7 for the printer A and the monitor 8 for the printer B perform the internal operation setting of each corresponding printer based on the setting state recorded in the printer information database 6.

"A main control unit 1 is the main controller which communicates with a web server 11 on the printer server described later and the printer information database 6. The main control unit 1 sends the operating and setting state of each printer recorded in the printer information database to a client based on the request received from the client via the web server unit 11." (Column 5, lines 24-35.)

It is clear, therefore, that Yanagidaira contemplates a situation in which main control unit 1 communicates with clients and updates information in a printer information database 6, but does not communicate with the printers. Rather, communication with the printers is the responsibility of the language monitors, which retrieve setting states recorded in the printer information database and send those setting states to the printer.

In this regard, Applicant wishes to distance himself from arguments submitted previously (such as at page 4 of the response dated July 29, 2004) that suggest that Yanagidaira's server might send commands to the printer "indirectly". It is Applicant's understanding that Yanagidaira's server does not send printer commands to a printer either directly or indirectly.

Moreover, Applicant maintains his position that Yanagidaira does not show anything corresponding to printer maintenance functions, printer maintenance commands, or names for printer maintenance functions. Additionally, nothing in Yanagidaira is seen to disclose or to suggest that a server sends anything to a printer "upon selection in the network device of one of the printer maintenance function names in the HTML-based page". Rather, as Applicant understands it, Yanagidaira contemplates a polling situation in

which the language monitor polls for changes in the printer information database, which is not the same as the present invention which is seen as responsive to a selection from an HTML-based page.

Mastie and Lauder have both been reviewed, but are not seen to add anything to the above-noted deficiencies of Yanagidaira. It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of Claims 1 to 27 are fully in condition for allowance.

Newly-added Claim 28 is directed to a printer maintenance method in a network environment having a server and at least one network device to which a printer is connected. Display data is sent from the server to the network device, wherein the display data contains identification for at least one printer maintenance function. A selection is received in the server from the network display device of a printer maintenance function identification. A printer maintenance command is sent from the server to the printer, wherein the printer maintenance command corresponds to the printer maintenance function identification selected in the network display device.

Yanagidaira, Mastie, and Lauder are not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing arrangement, and in particular are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of sending from the server to the printer a printer maintenance command, wherein the printer maintenance command corresponds to a printer maintenance function selected in the network display device. Allowance of Claim 28 is therefore respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised in the Office Action, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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